

REMARKS

Applicants submit this response to the Office Action of January 25, 2005. Claims 1-12, 16, 19, 27 and 52 are pending, and claims 13-15, 17, 18, 20-25, 28-51 and 53-57 are withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 11 was rejected, but in a telephone interview on February 15, 2005, the Examiner stated that claim 11 should have been objected to. The Examiner issued an Interview Summary on February 18, 2005, stating as follows: "the status of claim 11 should have been objected because it depends on the rejected claim." This is the substance of the interview and is hereby referred to in the current reply to the Office Action mailed on January 25, 2005 (MPEP § 713.04). Claims 1-10, 12, 16, and 19 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 11, 26, and 52 are amended as follows: Claim 11 was amended to remove the dependency from claim 8. Claim 26 was amended to remove the dependency from claims 1, 8, 13 or 20 and to add a dependency from claim 11. (Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and has not been amended.) Claim 52 has been amended to recite the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:1, and to remove the reference to STG and SEEK-1 polypeptides, which are not the subject of these claims following the restriction requirement. No new matter is added by these amendments, entry of which is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 10 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. In view of the cancellation of claims 9 and 10, this ground of objection may be withdrawn.

Claim 19 was objected to in view of the recitation of "base pairs." In view of the cancellation of claim 19, this ground of objection may be withdrawn.

Claims 19, 26, 27 and 52 were objected to as being drawn to multiple inventions. Claim 19 is cancelled, and claims 26 (and dependent claim 27) and 52 have been amended to remove the recitation of non-elected inventions. Withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 12, 16, 26, 27 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Without acquiescing to the ground of rejection, claims 1-10, 12 and 16 are cancelled, and claims 26, 27 and 52 now depend solely from claim 11, which was not subject to

this ground of rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Oka et al., Hum. Mol. Genet. 8:2165-2170 (1999) and NCBI accession no. AB031480. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-10, 12 and 16, applicants submit that this ground of rejection may be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 4-10, 12, 16, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by NCBI accession no. AC004195. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-3, 4-10, 12 and 16, and the amendment of claims 26 and 27 to depend from non-rejected claim 11, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

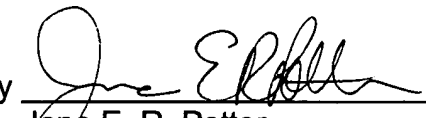
Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bonaldo et al., Genome Research 6:791-806, 1996. In view of the cancellation of claim 19, applicants submit that this ground of rejection may be withdrawn.

Claim 52 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as allegedly being anticipated by Oka et al., in view of Kuroki, J. Biol. Chem. 270:22428-22433, 1995. In view of the amendment of claim 52 to depend from claim 11, applicants submit that this combination of references does not render claim 52 obvious, and this ground of rejection may be withdrawn.

~~All of the claims remaining in the application are now believed to be allowable.~~
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If questions remain regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 628-7650.

Respectfully submitted,
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